



United Way Pre-school Scholarship Program

1. What is the United Way Pre-school Scholarship Program?

The pre-school scholarship program awards scholarships to four year olds living in Mower County to attend pre-school. Scholarships are given to families who, due to income restrictions, cannot afford pre-school without assistance. United Way receives donations from the community and The Hormel Foundation to fund this program.

2. What does the scholarship cover?

The scholarship program utilizes a sliding fee scale to determine eligibility. Families with incomes between 101-200% of poverty are eligible. Families with incomes over 200% of poverty should also inquire if there are any special circumstances (medical bills, reduced hours at work, etc.) that make paying for pre-school a hardship.

Scholarships cover anywhere from 100% to 25% (annually) of the total cost of pre-school. This includes the registration fee, snack fee and any other fee imposed by the pre-school. If a family is in need of transportation the scholarship will also cover 100% to 25% of the cost of the Rainbow Route. Transportation is optional.

Scholarships are determined by need. There is no guarantee that if you qualify you will receive a scholarship. Families will be notified by letter no later than May 29, 2015 whether or not they are receiving a scholarship.

3. How do I find out if my child qualifies for a scholarship?

Individuals interested in a pre-school scholarship (four year olds only-Kprep) should contact a staff member at the pre-school they are interested in having their child attend and make an appointment to fill out an application. Proof of income for 2014 is necessary for the application and should be brought to this appointment. Pre-School Staff can tell you exactly what to bring to this meeting.

If your household income is at or below 100% of poverty you are not eligible for a United Way scholarship, but should contact Lori Reuter at Head Start (433-5889) as you may qualify for Head Start.

Please note that many factors in addition to income are looked at when awarding scholarships; therefore if you have any financial difficulties affording pre-school please make an appointment with your pre-school provider to see if you qualify.

4. Can I choose where my child attends pre-school?

Yes. In order to secure a placement you should pay the registration fee. The only way to guarantee a slot in the pre-school of your choice is to register your child and pay the registration fee.

5. If I move can I keep my scholarship?

Maybe. Moving out of Mower County may cancel your scholarship.

6. How many days a week does my child need to attend pre-school?

The United Way scholarship is for a minimum of 4 days/week of kindergarten prep. If the pre-school does not offer a 4 or 5 day/week program then 3 days/week is the minimum.

7. How will payment work?

United Way will pay monthly for the portion of the scholarship being covered. Families are responsible to pay monthly their portion. A family not paying their portion may lose their scholarship. Families experiencing hardship should contact the pre-school to speak with them directly about the possibility of attaining an additional scholarship.

8. Questions?

Contact United Way at 507-437-2313 or via email at admin@uwmower.org.